

REMARKS:

Claims 23-107 were pending in the application. Claims 48-49, 53 and 81-85 have been canceled. Claims 23, 27, 32-37, 41, 44, 46, 50, 52, 54-58, 59-65, 69, 72-74, 76, 78, 80, 86, 90-94, 96-97, 99, 102, 104-105 and 107 have been amended. Claims 108-109 have been added. Therefore, claims 23-47, 50-52, 54-80 and 86-109 are now pending in this application.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims the pending independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,819,273 to Vora, et al. *See* Office Action of November 30, 2006. Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections.

Claim 23 now recites as follows (emphasis added):

23. A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer system connected to a network are capable of causing the computer system to:

define a meta-folder as a type of graphical element, wherein an instantiation of the meta-folder graphical element type is associable with 1) one or more search objects having corresponding search criteria and 2) one or more conventional objects;

display, via a first graphical interface of the computer system, a first graphical representation of a first meta-folder instantiated on the computer system;

upon selection of the first meta-folder via the first graphical interface:

for any search objects associated with the first meta-folder, initiate searching the computer system and the network for conventional objects that satisfy the corresponding search criteria; and

display, via the first graphical interface, graphical elements representing 1) any conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) any conventional objects associated with the first meta-folder.

The Examiner has previously alleged that Vora teaches “meta-folders.” Applicant has repeatedly disagreed with such contentions. With respect to presently amended claim 23, Applicant submits that Vora does not teach or suggest “meta-folders” as recited in that claim.

At best, Vora teaches a “search ‘agent’ within a window 401” in which a “first search request” may be “specified in box 403 by parameters 403a.” *See* Vora, column 9, lines 38-51 (cited by the Examiner in the Office Action of November 30, 2006). This disclosure is deficient relative to claim 23:

Vora does not teach or suggest a “type of graphical element” having the specific combination of properties recited in claim 23—for instance, the ability to be associated with “1) one or more search objects having corresponding search criteria and 2) one or more conventional objects.”¹ Accordingly, Vora does not teach “meta-folders” as currently recited in claim 23. Instead, Vora merely employs a solution analogous to that described (and criticized) in paragraph [0011] of Applicant’s “Background Art” section. Claim 23 uses a different paradigm.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 23 is believed to be patentably distinct over Vora. Claims depending from claim 23 are believed to be patentably distinct over Vora for at least the reasons given for claim 23.

Independent claims 59, 74, 86, 90, 92, 94, 96 and 102 and their corresponding dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinct over Vora for reasons similar to those provided for claim 23.

¹ Applicant notes that a particular instantiation of a “meta-folder” as recited in claim 23 is merely “associable” with “search objects” and “conventional objects.” A particular “instantiation” of a “meta-folder” may have: 1) one or more associated search objects and one or more associated conventional objects, 2) associated search objects but not associated conventional objects, 3) associated conventional objects but not search objects, and 4) neither search objects nor conventional objects. *See, e.g.*, claims 90, 108, and 109.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

Applicant has petitioned herewith for what is believed to be the appropriate extension of time. If any further extensions are necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/6057-06101/DMM.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Dean M. Munyon/
Dean M. Munyon
Reg. No. 42,914

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C.
P. O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 853-8847